



Superfund Update



Cornell-Dubilier Site (Hamilton Industrial Park)

South Plainfield, New Jersey

EPA
Region 2

October 1998

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this update to inform area residents and local officials of the results of recent investigations and upcoming actions related to the Cornell-Dubilier Site (Site) in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Background

The Cornell-Dubilier Site is located at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, New Jersey. The Site occupies approximately 25 acres and is bounded by Hamilton Boulevard to the northwest, Spicer Avenue to the southwest, a wetlands area to the southeast, and the Bound Brook and Conrail tracks to the northeast.

Cornell-Dubilier operated at the Site from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic components including capacitors. It is alleged that during its operation at the Site, Cornell-Dubilier disposed of PCB-contaminated materials and other hazardous substances on-site. The Site is currently known as the Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by approximately 15 businesses.

The Cornell-Dubilier Site was added to the final federal Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in July 1998.

Previous Actions

In October and November 1997 EPA collected soil and interior dust samples from residential properties near the Site. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) reviewed the data and concluded that long-term exposure to PCBs posed a health concern for several of the properties tested. To address these concerns, EPA decided to clean the interiors of seven homes and remove contaminated soil from six proper-

ties.

The interiors of seven homes were cleaned in April 1998. Post-cleaning samples were collected to verify the effectiveness of the cleaning. Analysis of these samples showed that the levels of PCBs were effectively reduced at four of the homes cleaned. Three of the homes cleaned will require further action to reduce the levels of PCBs present.

Under order from EPA, a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) will excavate the contaminated soil from 6 properties and dispose of it at an approved facility. The PRPs have submitted a work plan that EPA is reviewing. Field work is expected to start in the next month.

Recent Actions

In April 1998 EPA collected soil and/or interior dust samples from an additional 19 residential properties located near the Site. All samples collected were analyzed for PCBs. Following receipt of the data, EPA and ATSDR performed an extensive review to determine if the levels of PCBs detected would present a health concern. Several of the properties sampled did have elevated levels of PCBs and will require either interior cleaning or removal of contaminated soil. There is no immediate health risk to residents from exposure to PCBs at the levels found in their homes or in their yards. Interior cleaning is planned for December 1998. Soil

removal is planned for the Spring 1999.

In May 1998, soil samples were collected in the community surrounding the site to determine if additional investigations are necessary to characterize health concerns for residents. The levels of PCBs found do not require additional investigation at this time. A comprehensive remedial investigation of the site is planned for 1999. Additional sampling in the surrounding community may be performed at that time.

Other Site Activities

An investigation of commercial facilities bordering the site is planned for October 1998. The purpose of this investigation is to gather the information necessary to determine if health concerns exist for people who work in or frequent these establishments.

EPA has conducted a study to determine the impacts of contamination of the Bound Brook on human health and environment. Water, soil, sediment and fish samples were collected from the stream and analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs. The goal of this study is to provide the data necessary to evaluate the risk to public health and the stream. As a result of these investigations, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has issued a fish consumption advisory for the Bound Brook and its tributaries including New Market Pond and Spring Lake.

EPA has notified the PRPs of contaminants found within buildings at the industrial park. Discussions continue with the property owner and past operator regarding the work required in on-site buildings.

EPA is closely coordinating all its activities with City of South Plainfield officials.

For More Information

In order to address community concerns and manage on-going site activities, EPA has set up an office trailer at the corner of Spicer Avenue and Belmont Avenue. EPA staff will be available at the trailer to answer questions about the results of previous investigations, additional activities planned in your community and the sampling proposed for your home. Staffing hours will be posted on the trailer.

For information about the health effects from exposure to PCBs or other environmental contaminants contact the Agency for Toxic Substances Control and Disease

Registry (ATSDR) at (732) 906-6931.

For information about EPA's investigation and the response action required to address health concerns at the Site contact Eric Wilson at (732) 906-6991 or Pat Seppi at (212) 637-3679.

SUPERFUND OMBUDSMAN

EPA, Region 2 has designated an ombudsman as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express their concerns or register complaints about Superfund. The ombudsman for EPA's Region 2 office is:

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